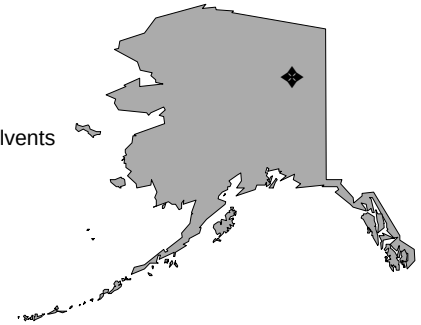
Eielson Air Force Base NPL

Size: 19,790 acres
Mission: Provide tactical air support to Pacific Air Forces
HRS Score: 48.14; placed on NPL in November 1989
IAG Status: IAG signed in May 1991
Contaminants: Heavy metals, petroleum/oil/lubricants, VOCs, PCBs, and solvents
Media Affected: Groundwater and soil
Funding to Date: $51.6 million
Estimated Cost to Completion (Completion Year): $9.3 million (FY2014)
Final Remedy in Place or Response Complete Date for All Sites: FY1999



Fairbanks, North Star Borough, Alaska

Restoration Background

Environmental studies at Eielson Air Force Base (AFB) began in FY82. By FY93, the installation had identified 64 sites. Thirty-one of the sites were grouped into six operable units (OUs); 24 were investigated and determined to require no further action.

Sites include fire training areas, landfills, spill sites, aboveground storage tanks, underground storage tanks (USTs), and disposal pits. Primary contaminants affecting groundwater and soil include petroleum/oil/lubricants (POLs), benzene, and chlorinated solvents.

Interim Actions completed in FY90 and FY91 include removal of four USTs and removal and incineration of POL-contaminated soil. Bioventing was implemented at two POL sites, and land treatment is being used to remediate the POL-contaminated soil excavated during Remedial Investigation (RI) and Removal Actions.

In FY94, the installation demonstrated the use of air sparging for removing volatile organic compounds (VOCs) from contaminated groundwater. A mobile wastewater treatment system was set up to treat monitoring-well purge water.

In FY95, the installation received regulatory approval for use of bioventing and natural attenuation as cleanup alternatives and began Remedial Design (RD) at OUs 1 and 2. The installation also began fate-and-transport modeling for lead-contaminated sites at OU2. A Remedial Action (RA) contract for landfill capping, bioventing, natural attenuation, soil vapor extraction (SVE), and remediation of lead contamination began at OUs 3, 4, and 5. Also in FY95, the installation converted its technical review committee to a Restoration Advisory Board (RAB).

In FY96, RD was conducted for polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination at Garrison Slough. Bioventing and SVE began at OUs 1 and 2. The installation also completed Removal Actions for lead and POL soil contamination at OU2. A cesspool and a dry well were removed.

In FY97, remedial efforts were completed at all 66 Federal Facility Agreement (FFA) sites except Site SS-067, which contained additional PCB contamination. Approximately 235,000 pounds of PCB-contaminated soil from this site was shipped to a Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) receiving facility. Land treatment operations continued using a windrow technique implemented in FY96. All Records of Decision (RODs) for the base's Installation Restoration Program (IRP) have been signed. Limited field investigations (LFIs) and response actions were completed at 44 AOCs, where more than 3,000 drums were removed and disposed of and over 218,000 pounds of lead-contaminated sand was removed from a firing range.

FY98 Restoration Progress

Eielson AFB reached the Construction Complete phase of the CERCLA process, and the preliminary closeout report (PCOR) received EPA signature. Cleanup efforts at the Chena River Site were completed.

In addition, the Eielson IRP accomplished its first 5-year ROD review, and the installation obtained EPA signature on the OU2 and OU3, OU4, and OU5 ROD amendments.

Remediation efforts at Site SS-067 (Garrison Slough PCB removal) were completed. Approximately 645,000 pounds of PCB-contaminated soil with a greater than 50 parts per million (ppm) PCB concentration has been disposed of at a TSCA receiving facility. All long-term operations (LTO) and long-term monitoring (LTM) activities at active sites continued. A total of 245 drums were removed during an area of concern (AOC) LFI/response action project. Actions were completed at all but four AOCs.

Land treatment operations were completed, and over 20,000 cubic yards of POL-contaminated soils was remediated to Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Level A standards (<100 ppm POL contamination).

Community interest in converting the Eielson RAB into a Community Advisory Board was assessed. The community showed no interest in making this change.

Plan of Action

- Complete LFI and response actions (remove approximately 800 drums) at the remaining four AOCs in FY99
- Demolish Building 500 (Chena Annex) under the Clean Sweep program in FY99
- Continue LTO/LTM at active sites in FY99
- Continue biannual RAB meetings in FY99
- Establish an institutional control plan in the Base General Plan in FY99
- Continue enforcing institutional controls in FY99
- Delineate extent of DRO contamination at Site OT008 in FY99, for possible FY00 Removal Action.

FY99 Funding by Phase and Relative Risk

No relative risk category funding was programmed in FY99 for this installation.